



***Loddon Valley
Football Netball League Inc.***

By-Laws

Registration No: A0058838S

Updated – February 2023

Loddon Valley Football Netball League are Committed to Child Safety. Every person in the LVFNL community has a responsibility to understand their role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care.

Loddon Valley Football Netball League is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of children and preventing abuse from occurring by fostering a culture where children feel safe and empowered.

We also seek to ensure the cultural safety of First Nations children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.

These By-Laws are to be read in conjunction with the Loddon Valley Football Netball League Statement of Purpose and Rules, Rules of AFL Victoria Country, Netball Victoria Competition Regulations, All Australian Netball Association Rules, Playing Rules of the International Federation of Netball Association, and Netball Australia Limited Member Protection Policy.

Child Safety Officer elected: Laura Naughton, Executive Officer, Loddon Valley Football Netball League was appointed the Child Safety Officer for 2023 onwards.

Table of Contents

Part 1: General By-Laws

1. Affiliation.....	3
2. Club Colours	3
3. Voting	3
4. Fixtures	3
5. Premiership Points	3
6. Correspondence	3
7. Match Day Documents	3
8. Game Day Filming	4
9. Match Review Panel	4
10. Reports	4
11. Protests & Complaints	5
12. Investigations	5
13. Tribunal	5
14. Disciplinary Procedures	5
15. Finals	6
16. Incomplete Matches	6
17. Life Members	7
18. Policies & Codes of Conduct	7
19. Special Circumstances / Provisions Clause	7

Part 2: Football By-Laws

20. Match Conditions.....	7
21. Finals	8
22. Age Conditions	9
23. Requirements of Clubs & their Officials	10
24. Transfers and Permits	11
25. Ineligible Players	11

Part 3: Netball By-Laws

26. Match Conditions	11
27. Umpires	12
28. Scoring and Timekeeping	13
29. Registration of Players	13
30. Qualifications	14
31. Clearances	15
32. Finals	15

Part 1 – General By-Laws

1. Affiliation

- a. Each Club shall affiliate with the Loddon Valley Football Netball League by signing an Affiliation Form and submit the Affiliation Form to the LVFNL Board Secretary or League Executive Officer prior to the commencement of the current season.
- b. Annual Affiliation fees are to be paid prior to the fourth match of the current season in which the club participates.

2. Club Colours

Club colours and numbers must be uniform and worn by every player. Colours of jumper, shorts, socks, netball dresses and netball bibs must be approved by the Board. Players who choose to wear bike shorts must ensure that they are skin coloured only.

3. Voting

Member clubs shall be entitled to up to two (2) votes per member club.

4. Fixtures

Date of commencement of the season and number of matches played shall be decided at each Annual General Meeting of Loddon Valley Football Netball League Inc.

5. Premiership Points

- a. Four (4) premiership points are awarded for a win
- b. Two (2) premiership points for a draw.
- c. No points will be awarded for a loss or a bye.
- d. Position of teams level on points shall be determined by percentage.
- e. Premiership points may be deducted from teams.

6. Correspondence

- a. All correspondence must be in writing on Official Club Letterhead from a Club Executive Member to the LVFNL Board Secretary or the LVFNL Executive Officer.
- b. All correspondence from the Board will be addressed to the Club Secretary or Club nominated authorised person.

7. Match Day Documents and Requirements

- a. Prior to competitive matches commencing, match day ground, court and equipment inspections must be completed and duly signed by a representative of each club. Home club to supply documentation.
- b. Home Club Secretary is responsible for ensuring official match day documents are completed and fully signed and in the hands of the League Administrator or their designated representative by the Tuesday following the match. Clubs will be fined \$50 per week if ALL required match day documents are not returned within this time frame.
- c. Clubs will be fined \$10 for each team sheet error and/or incomplete match day document as recorded by the League Administrator or their designated representative each season.

- d. Any objection to the condition of playing area/s and their suitability for game day on the forthcoming weekend, must be forwarded by the President of the Club concerned or their designated Executive representative, and received by the LVFNL Secretary by 5:00pm Monday prior to the game. The objection will then be considered by the LVFNL Executive, or designated representative, and the Club advised of its decision by 7:00pm the following Wednesday.

8. Game Day Filming

- a. The LVFNL Board will employ a Film Production Company to record all Senior Football matches.
- b. Home Clubs are to provide a safe, dry, elevated, functional vantage point, preferably on the wing with the sun behind the camera operator.
- c. Clubs will be responsible for downloading the game onto a supplied hard drive at the completion of the game.
- d. Game day footage is not authorised to be given or used in any type of media without prior consent of the LVFNL Board.
- e. Any game day footage, including finals, taken by official media is to be available to umpires for clarification of any report made, or, to identify a player who has been struck.

9. Match Review Panel (MRP)

- a. An independent MRP will be appointed each year to review footage and determine if a case against a player/official is to be referred to the Independent Tribunal.
- b. The MRP shall be made up of independent members who shall remain anonymous.
- c. MRP members will not be required to attend tribunal hearings.
- d. The MRP shall consist of an odd number of people.
- e. The President, Secretary, or Team Manager of an LVFNL affiliated club can request the MRP investigate a specific incident/s that did not result in an official report by the officiating Umpire/s.
- f. Clubs have until 5pm Monday following the match concerned to request an incident be assessed by the MRP. A fee of \$220 GST inclusive must accompany such request, which may be refunded in part or whole.
- g. Should a MRP request result in a charge being laid, the charge will be laid by the Regional Operations Manager / League Operations Manager on behalf of the LVFNL, with a League advocate to be appointed by the LVFNL.
- h. Vision of any LVFNL final filmed by the official media company will be available to Clubs for MRP purposes.

10. Reports

- a. All reports by Officiating Umpires must be lodged in writing with the League Administrator or their designated representative by 5pm Monday following the match in which they officiated.
- b. Any Club who has three (3) guilty reports in a team in the current season, will be asked to show cause.

- c. Any Club who has four (4) guilty reports in a team in the current season, will be fined \$500.
- d. Any Club who has five (5) and subsequent reports in a team in the current season:
 - i. will lose 2 premiership points, per guilty report.
 - ii. If a team does not have any premiership points to lose, the Club will be fined \$1000 per guilty report.
- e. Any Club who has four (4) guilty reports in a team in the current season will be fined \$1000 per guilty report during the finals series.
- f. Sanctions imposed on the teams within the Club do not impact the player, who still receives any penalty attributed to his indiscretion.

11. Protests & Complaints

- a. A protest against any Club Official, Club Member, Player and/or Umpire is to be lodged in writing to the LVFNL Board Secretary or League Administrator by Noon Tuesday following the match concerned. The Protest must be accompanied by a fee of \$220 GST inclusive, which may be refunded in part or whole.
- b. Any Complaint against any Club Official, Club Member, Player and/or Umpire is to be lodged in writing to the LVFNL Board Secretary or League Administrator by Noon Tuesday following the match concerned.
- c. It is the responsibility of the League Administrator or their designated representative to inform any club of a protest and/or complaint lodged against any Club Official, Club Member and/or Player by another and the ensuing action to be taken.

12. Investigations

Any Investigation requested by a club, must be lodged in writing with the League Administrator or their designated representative by 5pm Friday, accompanied by a deposit of \$500, which may be refunded in part or whole. *Refer to: AFL Vic Country Handbook, Section 2: Worksafe AFL Victoria County Rules and Regulations: Rule 5.0 Unbecoming Conduct*

13. Tribunal

- a. The Board shall appoint a group of people to form its Independent Tribunal. These people will remain as members of the Tribunal panel at the discretion of the Board. The Tribunal shall have the power to:
 - i. Decide any matter that is referred to it for determination.
 - ii. May summons or arrange for any person/s to appear to give evidence at the hearing of any report against a player or official.
 - iii. Impose any costs on the parties or withhold all or part of any deposit lodged.
 - iv. Make any decision or impose any penalty that it considers appropriate in each case.
 - v. Charge any person with the offence of giving untruthful evidence.
 - vi. All parties must attend the Tribunal Hearing
- b. If a player is found guilty of an offence (other than for timewasting) or who has accepted an automatic suspension during the home and away season, will be in-eligible for a Best and Fairest Award for that current playing season.
- c. Admissible supporting documentation may be provided.

14. Disciplinary Procedures

- a. Notwithstanding anything elsewhere contained in these By-Laws, the Board shall be empowered to take such disciplinary action as it considers necessary against any Club, Club Official, Player, Umpire, or person, where in the Boards opinion, such Club, Club Official, Player, Umpire, or other person has been guilty of any act, conduct, matter, or thing that is:
 - i. Unbecoming or prejudicial to the interest of the League;
 - ii. Calculated to bring or in fact bringing discredit on the League or any of its Constituent Clubs or a person connected therewith, or to impair or affect the enjoyment by any Club or person of the privileges associated with the membership of/or association with the League.
- b. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board may, in taking disciplinary action, impose such monetary penalty or other penalty, suspended, or otherwise, as appears to be appropriate.
- c. The Board shall, before determining any disciplinary action, give the Club, Club Official, Player, Umpire, or other person against whom the Board may propose to take action, details of the default alleged, and give such Club, Club Official, Player, Umpire, or other person the opportunity of being heard.

15. Finals

- a. The Board shall select Senior neutral grounds and all Senior Officials for finals.
- b. Finals are to be played on separate days.
- c. During the finals series, no dogs are permitted to enter the grounds.
- d. During the finals series, all patrons are to remain outside the playing arena during match time.
- e. During the finals series, no BYO alcohol is permitted to enter the grounds.

16. Incomplete Matches

If a match is unable to commence or continue within the time scheduled for the match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the match to proceed) the following shall apply:

- i. Match Not Commenced – The result of a match which is unable to commence for reasons beyond the control of the Team shall be determined by the Board.
- ii. Prior to Half Time – if a match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the match, the teams shall depart from the arena. If the match is unable to recommence within a 30-minute period and the elapsed playing time of the Match was less than the half time period, the Match shall be deemed to be drawn and the scores of the Teams at the time the match was interrupted shall be used in calculating the percentage of each Team.
- iii. Half Time & Beyond – If the half time interval has been reached and the Match is unable to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall leave the Arena, or in the case of Half time, not return to the Arena. If the Match is unable to recommence within a 30 minute period, the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final

scores of the Match. The Team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the Match and the scores shall be used in calculating the percentage of each team.

17. Life Members

The LVFNL may, at its discretion annually elect as Life Members, any person/s who has/have rendered outstanding service to the LVFNL. Nominations may be made by member Clubs no later than 30th June and considered by the Board.

Life Members are entitled to an annual letter acknowledging their Life Membership complete with their annual complimentary LVFNL Season Pass for entry into all games.

18. Policies and Codes of Conduct

- a. All Players, Officials, Club Members and Patrons/Attendees attending any match under the auspices of the Loddon Valley FNL shall be subjected to the Polices and/or Codes of Conduct as issued by the LVFNL Board and/or Governing bodies. These Polices and/or Codes of Conduct include but not limited to:
 - AFL / AFL Victoria / AFL Victoria Country
 - Cybersafety Policy
 - National Age Dispensation Policy
 - Players & Coaches Code of Conduct
 - Player & Official National Deregistration Policy
 - Player Points System Policy
 - Social Media Policy
 - Vilification & Discrimination Policy
 - Safeguarding Children and Young People Complaints & Mandating Reporting Procedure
 - Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct
 - Child Safeguarding and Wellbeing Policy (August 2022)
 - Commitment to Safeguarding Children & Young People
 - Netball Victoria
 - Member Protection Policy
 - Player, Coach, Umpire, Administrator Code of Conduct
 - Cyber Safety Policy
 - Inclusion Policy
 - Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy (updated 1/1/2023)
 - AFL / Netball Victoria
 - Commitment to Child Safeguarding (Child Safe Statement)
 - Acknowledgment of Country
 - Child Safety Code of Conduct Declaration Form
- b. It is a condition of entry to LVFNL matches that patron's park at their own risk at each of the venues.

19. Special Circumstances / Provisions Clause

- a. Where these By-Laws are silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the LVFNL Incorporated is maintained at all times.
- b. The Board may, using reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary, or waive the requirements set out in these By-Laws.
- c. In the case where no penalty is expressly provided for and an infringement has occurred, the Board can exercise discretion and impose any penalty that it considers appropriate.

Part 2 – Football By-Laws

20. Match Conditions

- a. Each club shall field a Senior, Reserve and Under 18 team unless written exemption is given by the Board.
- b. Senior, Reserves and Under 18 teams may use up to four (4) interchange players in all matches including finals.
- c. A minimum of Fourteen (14) players are required to commence a game in the Under 18 competition. *Refer to LVFNL Under 18 Competition Guidelines.*
- d. Under 18 players from clubs currently affiliated with the LVFNL and who have a bye on a scheduled weekend may be permitted to play for another LVFNL club on that weekend if that club has a shortage of numbers in their Under 18 team.
- e. Once an Under 18 player has played in the Senior grade for their club or played a TAC cup game during the current season, that player is ineligible to play with another LVFNL Under 18 team. (Note: Senior grade does not include any Reserves games).
- f. Clubs can only have a maximum of six (6) permit players listed on their team sheet and no more than twenty (20) players in total listed (including any permit players).
- g. Permit Players are ineligible to win LVFNL awards.
- h. Under 18 matches to start no later than 10:40am and consist of 4 x 20 minute quarters, no time on.
- i. Reserves matches to start no later than 12:30pm and consist of 4 x 20 minute quarters, no time on.
- j. Senior matches to start no later than 2:15pm and consist of 4 x 20 minute quarters plus time on. This allows a maximum time of twenty (20) minutes at half time in the Seniors. This time may be used by the clubs for a Minis football match consisting of two (2) seven (7) minute halves. It is the Team Managers responsibility to advise the Senior Umpires whether or not a Minis match will take place.
- k. Any teams not ready to start at the appointed time are to be reported. Central Umpires to be sole judge of time. All teams reported to be automatically fined \$50.00.
- l. In the Under 18 Competition during the Home and Away season, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposition if a player kicks the ball over the boundary line, whether on the full or not. If the ball is knocked or taken over the boundary line (not by foot) or if in dispute or uncertain the Central Umpire will conduct a ball up 5m in from the

boundary line where the ball went out. No player can have a direct kick for goal under this rule, except if the ball was kicked out on the full.

- m. Where a team has been found to have more than the permitted number of players on the playing surface, the score for that team shall revert to the score at the previous interval.

21. Finals

- a. In the event of a drawn game during the finals series, extra time shall be played to achieve a result. Such “extra time” shall be played in accordance with the following rules:
 - i. In the event of scores being level at the elapsed time, the timekeepers are instructed to sound the siren.
 - ii. The field umpires shall then:
 - 1. Direct the goal umpires to consult each other as to the correct scores and advise the Captains to instruct their respective teams to stay in position.
 - 2. On receiving confirmation that the scores are level, field umpires will instruct both Captains that the match shall recommence with the teams kicking to the same end as in the final quarter.
 - iii. **SENIORS**
 - 1. Two five-minute halves **WITH time on** shall be played, with teams exchanging ends after the first five-minute period immediately the siren sounds.
 - 2. If scores are still level, then another two five-minute halves **WITH time on** shall be played, with teams exchanging ends after the first five-minute period immediately the siren sounds.
 - 3. If scores are still level, then the teams will toss for the end to which to kick, and then the team who scores first will be the winner.
 - iv. **RESERVES & UNDER 18's**
 - 1. Two five-minute halves **NO Time on** shall be played, with teams exchanging ends after the first five-minute period immediately the siren sounds.
 - 2. If scores are still level, then another two five-minute halves **NO Time on** shall be played, with teams exchanging ends after the first five-minute period immediately the siren sounds.
 - 3. If scores are still level, then the teams will toss for the end to which to kick, and then the team who scores first will be the winner.
 - v. Coaches are not to address players after the three-quarter time interval.
- b. No player who has played nine (9) or more Senior home and away games in a current season shall be eligible to play in the Reserve Eighteen's finals.
- c. A Senior or Reserves player must have played at least four (4) Reserves matches prior to the 1st Final to be eligible to play in Reserves finals.
- d. A player must have played at least four (4) under age matches prior to the 1st Final to be eligible to play in under age finals.

- e. Under 18, Reserve and Senior players must have played in at least four (4) rounds with their respective club in the current season before the 1st Final.
- f. Long term injury: If a player is seriously injured while training or playing for his AFL Victoria Country affiliated club (practice matches included), then a club may apply in writing to the Board for special consideration to allow that player to compete in a Finals Series without obtaining the minimum eligibility criteria. This application must be made prior to the August LVFNL Board of Management Meeting.

The Board may require evidence as to the nature of the long term injury before ruling on the club's application.
- g. If a club has both Senior and Reserve Eighteen's playing in a Final on the one weekend, once the Senior Team is selected any Senior player can play with the Reserves overriding Rule 21(b) and/or 21(c).
- h. During the Finals Series, a player, irrespective of grade, can only be named on one team sheet that weekend unless extreme circumstances occur, when upon request, the Board will adjudicate.
- i. Any player on local interchange to a VFL Club must play a minimum of four (4) games for his LVFNL club. Notwithstanding this criterion, if he plays more than eight (8) games for his VFL club, then he becomes ineligible to play finals in any grade of the LVFNL.
- j. Times of matches for Grand Final:
 - i. Under 18 matches to start no later than 10:30am and consist of 4 x 20 minute quarters, no time on.
 - ii. Reserves matches to start no later than 12:30pm and consist of 4 x 20 minute quarters, no time on.
 - iii. Senior matches to start no later than 2:30pm and consist of 4 x 20 minute quarters plus time on.

22. Age Conditions

- a. Junior age limit shall be determined as Under 18 years of age on 1st January of the current season. All Junior players must be registered with the club with which they play.
- b. The Board has adopted an overage policy to assist clubs having difficulty fielding a full under age team. Clubs must be aware of the requirements of this policy prior to the commencement of each season which can be found on the website www.lvfnl.com.au
- c. The Board has adopted Competition Guidelines for the Under 18 competition. Clubs must be aware of these guidelines prior to the commencement of each season which can be found on the website www.lvfnl.com.au
- d. Area Agreements are available with surrounding Leagues for Underage competitions.
- e. The equalisation principle **will** be adhered to.

23. Requirements of Clubs and their Officials

- a. Club Boundary umpires must wear a white top.
- b. Club runners must wear a Board approved coloured top and black or navy-blue shorts or tracksuit pants and neutral socks.
- c. Water Carriers: May be a maximum of four (4) and they must wear a top approved by the Board with the Club name printed on the back and individually numbered. They

- must also wear black or navy-blue shorts or tracksuits and neutral socks. Whenever possible, they should be fourteen (14) years of age or older.
- d. Trainers: Must wear a top approved by the League and black or white tracksuit pants or black shorts. Top must have the club name printed on the back and individually numbered.
 - e. When a player is sent off by the Umpire under the order off rule, a club official must report to the time keepers.
 - f. All team officials entering the playing field must wear appropriate enclosed footwear.
 - g. All team officials remaining inside the arena fence during play must be registered with the club and listed on the clubs' team sheet.
 - h. Sponsors logos on jumpers must be approved by the Board.
 - i. On the back of the jumper, Logos are to be located underneath the number and no larger than 300mm x 140mm (LxW).
 - ii. On the front of the jumper, Logos are to be located on the upper chest area only and no larger than 100mm x 100mm.
 - iii. On the shorts, sponsors logo/s are to be located on the front left leg and no larger than 100mm x 50mm (LxW).
 - iv. On the shorts, a Club logo may be located on the front right leg only and no larger than 100mm x 50mm (LxW).
 - i. Clubs are required to adhere to all conditions contained in any League sponsorship agreements as entered into by the League from time to time.
 - j. Club goal umpires are required to wear a high visibility jacket as approved by the League.
 - k. A new ball, provided by the home club, must be used in all Senior matches.
 - l. A new ball, or a good used ball must be provided by the home club for each of the Reserves and Under 18 matches.
 - m. All score cards must be checked and signed by both Goal Umpires before leaving the playing arena at the end of games.
 - n. Time-Keepers are to record all goals and points scored in all games. These cards are to be used only if a dispute in the final score occurs.
 - o. At least ten (10) minutes prior to the commencement of each game, clubs must submit an official team list for that game to the officiating umpires and exchange team lists with the opposition club.

24. Transfers and Permits

- a. All applications for Transfers and Permits must be forwarded to the League Administrator or their designated representative. All applications for permits or transfers must be made on official forms.
- b. An email addressed to the League Administrator or their designated representative, from the player's former League/Club, stating that a transfer has been granted, shall be accepted by the League, allowing the player being cleared to play. Such electronic documentation to be submitted by 10am on the Saturday of the weekend the player wishes to play.
- c. Any registered player in the Armed Forces is eligible to play with his Club when available.

25. Ineligible Players

- a. Any club contravening AFL Victoria Country Rule 1.3 must be asked for an explanation as to why the contravention took place. Acceptance or non-acceptance of the explanation and any subsequent penalty as provided for in AFL Victoria Country Rule 1.3 to be determined by the Area Appeals Board.
- b. In the event of any Club offending by breaking the rules relating to ineligible players, the offending Club may be protested against by any Club. The offending club shall be dealt with as per AFL Victoria Country Rule 1.3.

Part 3 – Netball By-Laws

26. Match Conditions

- a. In the event that a Court Supervisor does not deem the court/s suitable for play, a League Board Member shall be contacted to make the final decision.
- b. Points are defaulted by the Home Club if the unsuitability of the court/s is a result of negligence the club had prior knowledge of.
- c. In the event of only one court being suitable for play, competitive grades take precedence. The games are to be played in sequential order. Points will be shared in all grades not played except in the circumstance as previously stated in clause 26(b).
- d. If weather is unsuitable on game day, a decision regarding Mini's will be made by representatives of both clubs as to whether play shall commence/continue.
- e. Games may only be transferred to another outside venue if courts have been deemed unsuitable to play on. Both clubs must agree to do so and obtain approval from the League prior to competition matches commencing.
- f. In the event of an alternate venue not being approved by both clubs, points shall be shared.
- g. When heavy rain falls or adverse weather occurs such as hail or lightning, the umpires may call time-off for a maximum of thirty (30) minutes in any match or matches, after which play must be completed or abandoned and points shared.
- h. Competition matches and Finals will be played in accordance with the All Australian Netball Association (AANA) Inc. Rules, unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws.
- i. In Home and Away matches, each match shall have one (1) ball supplied by the Home Team to be used throughout the game unless contamination and/or damage necessitate replacement.
- j. One (1) umpire shall be supplied by each team.
- k. Home Clubs to provide an audible device to indicate time in all matches.
- l. In the event of a forfeit:
 - i. The opposing team and the League Administrator or their designated representative **must** be notified by 9:00am on Saturday morning of the scheduled match.

- ii. Four (4) points and Twenty (20) goals is to be given in that grade for percentage for forfeits to the non-forfeiting team.
- iii. The Non-Forfeiting team must complete an official League scoresheet, signed by a club representative and forwarded to the League Administrator or their designated representative.
- iv. When forfeit notification is NOT received by the opposing club and the League Administrator or their designated representative:
 - 1. The defaulting club shall forfeit four (4) points in THAT grade and a \$50 fine imposed. The non-forfeiting team will be awarded the game as per By-Law 26.I.ii
- v. Where extenuating circumstances exist, the League Administrator or their designated representative **must** be notified by 8:00pm the night of the scheduled match and in writing by 12 noon on the Wednesday following the match in question. A special meeting of the Board may be convened to determine the cause and appropriate action.
- m. Grades and Times of Matches:
 - i. Mini's, 15&Under – 10:30am
 - ii. 13&Under, 17&Under –12 noon
 - iii. C Reserve, B Grade – 1:30pm
 - iv. C Grade, A Grade – 3pm
- n. In the event of unavoidable delays, an amended starting time may be approved following consultation between one (1) Executive Member from each club and both Team Captains. Umpires are to be notified of the amended time prior to the designated game commencement time given in the By-Laws.
- o. Each year the Board will organise a Crit night for netball umpire development. Venue, date and times of matches will be determined by the Board.

27. Umpires

- a. One (1) Umpire shall be supplied by each team or by mutual agreement for all Home and Away matches.
- b. Once a game has commenced, there is to be no changes to Umpires unless injury or illness occurs.
- c. Umpires cannot umpire and/or play more than two (2) games per day.
- d. It is the club's responsibility to ensure all Umpires hold a current Netball Victoria registration and that Umpires are badged OR hold a current Rules of Netball theory exam and Foundation Umpire Education course. With the exception of 13&Under and 15&Under where umpires must be badged and/or hold a current Rules of Netball theory exam and/or in the process of obtaining the Foundation Umpire Education course.
- e. The Umpire must be ready to start the game five (5) minutes prior to the official starting time.
- f. Umpires officiating in competitive LVFNL matches **must** complete the official LVFNL Best & Fairest voting slip (where applicable) at the completion of the match. Both umpires **must** sign the official voting envelope.

28. Scoring and Timekeeping

- a. The Home Club to supply one Official Scorer. The Away Club to supply one Official Timekeeper. These two Officials **must** sit together and confer with all goals shot and confirm at each quarter that the scores are correct. The timekeeper is to inform umpires of the match commencement and the start and end of each quarter.
- b. Scorers and Timekeepers cannot play in a game in which they are officiating.
- c. Scorers and Timekeepers cannot be changed once a game commences unless due to injury or illness.
- d. Prior to the commencement of the game, the Official scoresheet **must** be completed. List both Christian name and Surname of the starting seven (7) players and substitutes (as registered with Netball Victoria in the current year). This is to be completed either manually on an official LVFNL scorebook or via an electronic device on the official LVFNL data platform.
- e. Scorers must also record the position of players at every quarter (even if no changes are made).
- f. A Team Official must inform the Scorer of all changes, so they can complete their duties accurately. The LVFNL Team Change Sheet is to be used and no changes are to be made after the 10 second warning.
- g. The scoresheet must be signed by both Captains and both Umpires in the presence of both the Scorer and Timekeeper immediately after the game. Scores to be checked by both Captains prior to signing.
- h. It is advised that a Team Official assists the Captain of the 13&Under and 15&Under team to check the Scoresheet prior to the Captain signing.
- i. The Home Club is to supply three (3) working timers. One (1) to be the game timer and the other two (2) to be the injury timers.
- j. Timing for all competition games is to commence when the game is started by the Umpires whistle. Each quarter to be fifteen (15) minutes duration, except 13&Under, which shall be twelve (12) minute quarters. Intervals for all competition games at quarter (1/4) time and three quarter (3/4) time to be three (3) minutes duration and at half (1/2) time to be five (5) minutes duration.
- k. The Timekeeper is to notify the Umpire of time remaining at the Umpires discretion, before the end of each quarter.
- l. In the event of cold and wet conditions, interval times as stated in By-Law 28.j can be reduced if agreed by both clubs and both umpires.
- m. LVFNL Clubs are to have Netball scoreboards for all games. These scoreboards are to be updated at least quarter by quarter.

29. Registration of Players

- a. All Players, Umpires and Coaches are required to hold a current Netball Victoria Membership.
- b. Prior to taking the court for their first match in the current season with their selected club, individual players must register on-line through the "Netball Connect" system.

- c. An individual player that has not registered on-line prior to taking the court for their first match in the current season, will be deemed as an Unregistered Player.
- d. Registrations for the current Season will be accepted on-line through the “Netball Connect” system until midnight on 30th June.
- e. Unregistered Players:
 - i. If a winning team plays an unregistered player the game is awarded to the opposing team. **Penalty** – Loss of four (4) points and no percentage awarded to the offending team. Four (4) points is awarded to the Non-Offending team and their score is counted for percentage.
 - ii. If a losing team plays an unregistered player: **Penalty** – Four (4) points will be deducted from the premiership ladder and no percentage awarded to the losing team.
- f. Single game vouchers can be purchased up to, or on the 30th June and only be used before or on the 30th June of the current season.
- g. Age Requirements:
 - i. Participant age is determined as at 31st December of the current year.
 - 1. Open Female Sections: A Grade, B Grade, C Grade, C Reserve
 - 2. Junior Female Sections: 17&Under, 15&Under, 13&Under, Mini’s
 - ii. Females who participate in Minis must be 13 years and under as at 31st December of the current year.
 - iii. Males may participate in the Junior Female Mini’s competition and/or Junior Female 13&Under competition and must be less than Thirteen (13) years of age as at the first day of the current season competition.
 - iv. The Board has adopted an overage policy to assist clubs having difficulty fielding a full under age team. Clubs must be aware of the requirements of this policy prior to the commencement of each season which can be found on the website www.lvfnl.com.au

30. Qualifications

- a. A player can play in any grade/s of Home and Away matches any number of times.
- b. Number of matches each player plays in any section to be counted at the last Home and Away match.
- c. A player must have played six (6) rounds for their registered club to qualify for the finals.
- d. The exception being a registered Mini player who has played four (4) matches in under aged (Junior Female) grades, will qualify to play in under age (Junior Female) finals.
- e. A player must play four (4) times in a grade to qualify for THAT grade or higher grade finals.
- f. Once a player has played eight matches in a higher grade or grades combined, that player cannot play in the finals of a lower grade or under age grade. That player may play in the final of a higher grade or grades.
- g. In the event of a club being unable to field all open age teams during the season, then the A Grade must be filled before B Grade. B Grade before C Grade. C Grade before C Reserve.

- h. All LVFNL netball coaches shall hold a minimum level of Foundation Course accreditation. This accreditation must be completed or renewed, if required, by April 30th of each year.

31. Clearances

- a. No clearance shall be accepted by the Board and League Administrator or their designated representative after 30th June of the current playing season.
- b. Players wishing to transfer from one LVFNL club to another, during the current playing season and prior to 30th June, must:
 - i. Fully complete a clearance application which is to be lodged with the League Administrator or their designated representative and current Club.
 - ii. The Club has seven (7) days to respond to a clearance application.
 - iii. If the club fails to respond within seven (7) days, the clearance is automatically granted and the League Administrator or their designated representative will inform the player.
 - iv. If the club refuses the application, the player has the right of appeal to the Board within seven (7) days of the refusal. On receipt of the players appeal, the Board shall:
 - 1. Notify each affected party of the date, time, and place of the hearing of such appeal.
 - 2. No member of the Legal Profession shall be permitted to appear or act as an advocate before the Tribunal.

32. Finals

- a. All clubs are required to perform timekeeping and scoring duties for each grade during finals. The Board will provide a roster for clubs.
- b. The Board will provide new netballs for Finals.
- c. The Board will provide Scorebooks, Timekeeper Sheets, Electronic Devices and Three (3) timers for each grade.
- d. The Board shall supply neutral umpires for all Finals.
- e. Each team must complete the Official Scoresheet at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of that game so that the League Administrator or their designated representative may check player eligibility before the game commences.
- f. A match report is to be completed by Scorers and Timekeepers for each match.
- g. During the Finals Series, a player, irrespective of grade, can be named on no more than two team sheets that weekend and cannot play more than five (5) quarters that weekend unless extreme circumstances occur, when upon request, the Board will adjudicate.
- h. Grades and Times of Matches for Finals (excluding Grand Final)
 - i. 15&Under – 10:30am
 - ii. 13&Under, 17&Under – 12 noon
 - iii. C Reserve, B Grade – 1:30pm
 - iv. C Grade, A Grade – 3:00pm

Grades and Times of Matches for Grand Final

- i. 13&Under, 17&Under – 10:00am
 - ii. 15&Under, C Grade – 11:45am
 - iii. C Reserve, B Grade – 1:30pm
 - iv. A Grade – 3:15pm
- i. In the event that scores are tied at full-time during the finals series, extra time shall be played to achieve a result. Such “extra time” shall be played in accordance with the following rules:
- i. There shall be a three (3) minute interval at the end of full time.
 - ii. Extra time shall consist of two (2) halves of five (5) minutes each, with an interval of one (1) minute at half time. Teams change ends at half time.
 - iii. In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time for all grades (excluding 13&Under), a visual signal is placed at the official bench to indicate that play will continue until one team leads by two goals.
 - iv. In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time in the 13&Under grade, a visual signal is placed at the official bench to indicate that play will continue until one team scores a goal.